

ENGLAND

DRAWER 4A CHURCHES

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Abraham Lincoln and religion

England

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

February 8, 1912.

LONDON'S LINCOLN TOWER.

AMONG the American visitors who throng London each summer there are few who know that in South London there is a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. It is a graceful tower and spire attached to Christ Church, an independent non-conformist church, in Southwark.

Over the entrance are the words, "Lincoln Tower." A large stone tablet inside records, among other things, that the tower "was built in commemoration of the abolition of slavery effected by President Lincoln, and as a token of international brotherhood." One of the two large rooms in the tower is named for Washington.

When first erected, and before the smoke of London had blended all in uniform blackness, there could be seen on the spire of the tower stars and stripes in red and white stone.

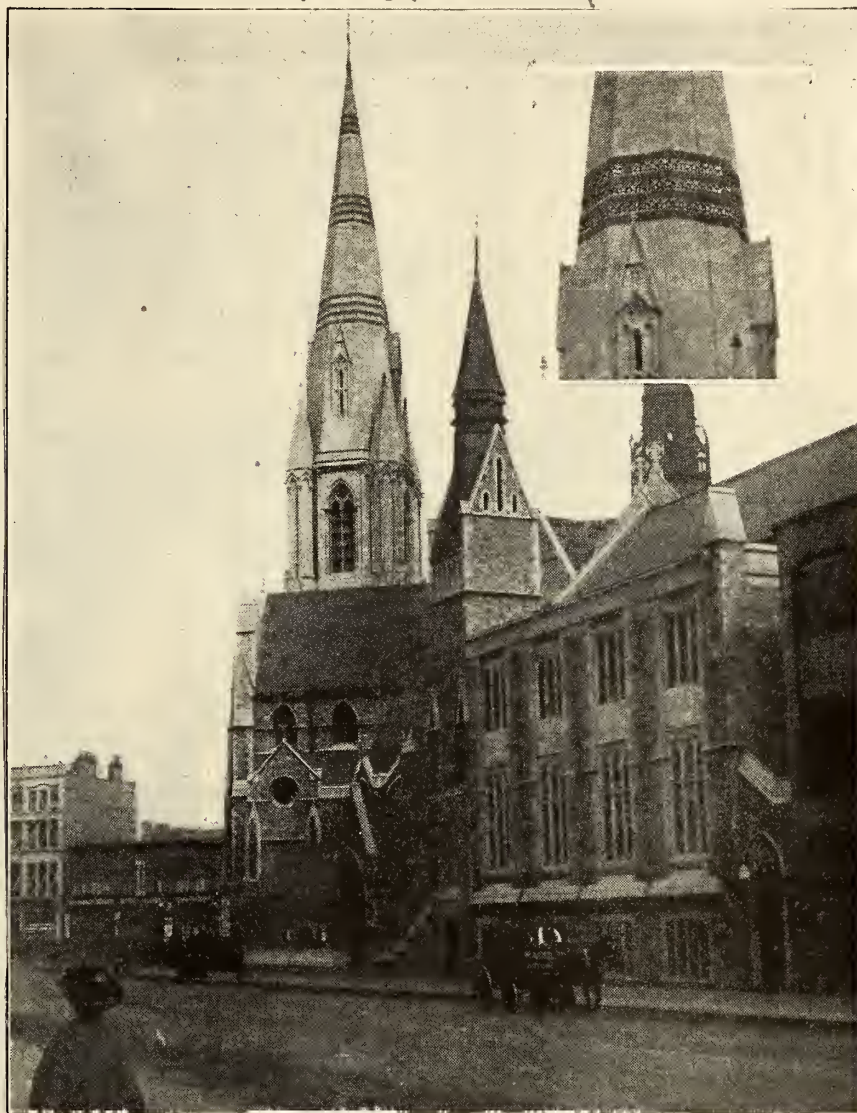
The Lincoln Tower was inaugurated July 4, 1876. The newspapers of the time were crowded with accounts of the great centennial celebration, so that it is not strange that the ceremony of opening the tower was overlooked.

The idea of the memorial originated with the Hon. William E. Dodge of New York, who at the time was visiting the Rev. Newman Hall, widely known as "the dissenter's bishop," one of the most popular English preachers of the day. Except for the first thousand dollars, the whole cost of the tower, which amounted to thirty-five thousand dollars, was contributed, half in English sixpences and half in American dimes, entirely through the efforts of Mr. Hall, who counted the work all joy for the love that he bore to Lincoln.

Southwark is a district of modest homes,—its inhabitants are people of small means, if not actually poor,—just the kind of plain people whom Lincoln especially loved and trusted. It would please the great President that his memorial should stand among such surroundings, rather than in a more conspicuous situation or a more fashionable neighborhood.



Memorial. Engr.



THE STARS AND STRIPES ON A LONDON CHURCH SPIRE

On Westminster Bridge Road, in London, stands Christ Church (Baptist), whose graceful spire is a monument to Abraham Lincoln, having been built with contributions from Americans for that purpose. Three sets of courses of reddish stone are set in the spire, and between them are rows of stars deeply cut. [See enlarged detail inset.]

ABRAHAM LINCOLN - NORFOLK ASSOCIATIONS.

NORWICH - ST. MARY-AT-COSLANY CHURCH.

The oldest mural Tablet in the City is to be seen on the interior West Wall to the North of the tower. It has an inscription in Norman-French recording that THOMAS DE LINGCOLE had given a wax taper and a lamp to the altar of the Holy Trinity. He was a tanner and a bailiff of the City.(died 1298)

NORWICH - ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

On the right of the South door is a tablet to ABRAHAM LINCOLN (died 1798) which is interesting as a link (though possibly remote) between St.Andrew's Parish Church and the ancestors of the great American President.

NORFOLK - SWANTON MORLEY.

Here Richard Lincoln made the will in 1615 disinheriting his son Edward which resulted in his grandson Samuel's emigration to America in 1637 where, in due course, he was to become the great-great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham. An old manorial map of 1692 shows the land held by the Lincolns, which in 1943 was bought and presented to the National Trust by Colonel Leslie. The foundations of the old Lincoln farmhouse are still to be seen. The Angel Inn, a portion of which dates back to 1610 is 'the new mansion of me, Richard Lincoln', in which he made the will.

NORFOLK - HINGHAM.

Richard Lincoln of Swanton Morley, whose will was to affect the course of American history, also left instructions that he was to be buried in 'the centre alley of Hingham Church', and this was done on December 23rd. 1620. Just over 16 years later, on April 8th. 1637, his grandson Samuel sailed for America. Two years earlier the rector, Robert Peck, a man of 'a very violent schismatical spirit', in trouble with the authorities for levelling the altar, pulling down the rails, and sinking the chancel a foot below the nave, had fled to America, accompanied by many of his parishioners, and there founded Hingham, Mass. where Samuel Lincoln is buried, though Peck himself returned to England in 1646.

In the market place is a granite boulder presented by the citizens of the American town; and when a new Church was consecrated there in 1833, they also presented Hingham, England, with a silver set of Communion plate, a chair and a lectern.

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*This came to me from Dr. Robert C. Givler
of the faculty of Tufts College, July 26, 1958
Earl J. Haines*

Lincoln Shrine in England



Church In Hingham, England, Where Abraham Lincoln's Ancestors Worshipped.

English Village Has Lincoln Shrine; Hingham, Norfolk, Was Family Home

While the United States memorializes Abraham Lincoln with anniversary services, interest goes back to the little village of Hingham, Norfolk, Eng., where is another shrine to the Great Emancipator. Annual commemorative services are held in the church where Lincoln ancestors worshiped and a Lincoln bust occupies an honored niche.

This typical English hamlet contains traces of Abraham Lincoln's family extending back to 1542, where records picture one Robert Lincoln, a gentleman of comfortable though not affluent circumstances, as having taken a part in the community affairs, and show how a later ancestor migrated to America, where he settled in the New World Hingham, located in Massachusetts.

There is evidence that the Lincolns came from Hautbois, near the now famous yachting resort of Wroxham, and some historians claim that the Thomas de Lingcole whose gift in 1298 is mentioned on a mural tablet in the Church of St. Mary Coslany at Norwich, was an ancestor of the Hingham family.

Robert was succeeded by a son of the same name who, in turn, was

followed by Richard Lincoln. Richard was married several times and left practically all his property to his fourth wife and her children; consequently his eldest son, Edward, found himself with very few ancestral possessions. In spite of his poverty, however, he had a large family, and the difficulty of earning a good living in England was no doubt the cause of his sixth son, Samuel, emigrating to America in 1637. Samuel worked as a weaver in Hingham, Mass., attracted there, no doubt, by the fact that several other emigrants from his own village had already settled in that town.

Obscurity largely veils Samuel Lincoln's subsequent fortunes, but his son and grandson were connected in some way with the iron founding industry. A grandson, Mordecai, transferred his activities to Chester County, Pa., but his son, John Lincoln, again removed, this time to Rockingham, Va. The next descendant met with disaster in 1785 at the hands of Indians in Kentucky. At the time, his son Thomas was five years old, and it was this Thomas who later married Nancy Hanks and was the father of Abraham Lincoln.

